

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02 AID-05

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P R 121015Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7117

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0309

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KE

SUBJECT: MAP TRAINING FOR KENYA

REF SECDEF 3328 (DTG 082107Z JAN 76), STATE 5942 (DTG 092323Z
JAN 76), NAIROBI 00;4 (DTG 020720Z JAN 76)

1. SECDEF MESSAGE (3328) CLEARLY STATED BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE HAS AGREED ON SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE. ON RECEIPT THIS GOOD NEWS, GOK WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED. AS IT NOW WELL OVER ONE YEAR SINCE GOK REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WITHOUT SALES TO DATE, NEWS THAT MAP FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR PILOT TRAINING WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT APPRECIATION. PRESIDENT KENYATTA, WHO ASKS FREQUENTLY REGARDING PROGRESS ON ISSUE, HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED. TO NOW INFORM KENYANS INFORMATION WAS WRONG COULD HAVENQVERSE NN KMFAL REVERCUSSIONS IN KENYA AS WELL AS BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. KENYANS SEE EXTERNAL THREAT AS GREATER NOT LESS THAN YEAR AGO; RANK AND FILE OF KENYAN ARMY ARE AWARE OF POTENTIAL THREAT, FEEL INADEQUATELY PROVIDED WITH RESULT MORALE IN ARMY LOW AND DETERIORATING. WHILE KENYATTA LIVES HIS ADAMANT ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION OBVIATES
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CONSIDERATION OF TURNING TO SOVIETS FOR ARMS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY IN KENYA (I WOULD NUMBER FOMHIN WAIYAKI

AMONG THEM) WHO, WHILE LEANING STRONGLY TOWARD THE WEST, NEVERTHELESS WOULD TURN TO SOVIETS FOR ARMS PURCHASE IN SINCERE BELIEF IISHBULD BE DONE ON NO-STRINGS BASIS. IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO HELP KENYANS NOW, WE MAY WELL NOT BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY AT LATER DATE.

3. IT IS CLEAR FACT OF LIFE THAT OUR PRIORITIES GO WHERE FIRE IS BURNING. NEVERTHELESS, WITH SOVIETS, CHINESE, NORTH KOREANS AND CUBANS PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN COUNTRIES SURROUNDING KENYA, WITH FEAR FUELED BY U.S. DOD CRY THAT SOVIETS NOW BUILDING BASE NEAR KENYAN BORDER, WE MUST NOT ONLY RESPOND SOON TO THEIR MILITARY REQUEST BUT WITH DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE THAT CAN BE EFFECTIVE.

4. IN MEANTIME, I HAVE NOT INFORMED GOK THAT WE MIS-INFORMED THEM REGARDING MAP TRAINING IN HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL URGENTLY RECONSIDER NEGATIVE POSITION COMMUNICATED IN STATE 005942. IN RECONSIDERING MATTER I WOULD RECOMMEND REVIEW OF RATIONALE SET FORTH IN NAIROBI 0004 FOR OFFERING THIS TRAINING TO KENYA PRIOR TO DECIDING WHAT U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS TO BE OFFERED. PLEASE ADVISE.
MARSHALL

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